

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK STATISTICS, MARCH, 1946

Figures in parentheses refer to the previous year.

MORTALITY LOSSES. The reported losses from drought and all other causes were:- Sheep 1,300,234 (804,415), cattle 23,596 (25,622) Horses 14,201 (13,530) and Pigs 7,760 (9,672). The combined losses for the two years are seen to have been very heavy.

For several years up to March 1943 there had been heavy increases in our flocks and herds but slight decreases were recorded for March 1944. The heavy drought losses were reflected in decreased numbers shown for March 1945 with further decreases for 1946. The number of sheep is now the lowest since 1931. Further, future numbers will be affected by the loss of present and future breeding stock. The number of breeding ewes has fallen from 5,046,390 in 1944 to 3,882,869 in 1946 and the number of lambs marked were the lowest since 1930. The effects of the drought are seen also in the reduced slaughterings as set forth on page 2.

SHEEP. 6,786,538 (8,473,939) a decrease of 1,687,401 on the previous year and of 3,573,131 since March 1944. There were 3,882,869 (4,230,868) breeding and 380,823 (555,527) other ewes, 1,487,640 (1,829,643) wethers; 109,365 (127,127) rams and 925,841 (1,530,774) lambs.

LAMBING 1945. 1,469,831 (2,579,176) lambs were marked. Although farmers had reported earlier in the season that they had mated or intended to mate 3,979,162 ewes, owing to mortality losses etc. the final figures were only 3,036,031 (4,082,631) giving a lambing percentage of 48.41 (63.17). The number of lambs marked were considerably less than half of the 3,322,810 marked in 1943.

LAMBING 1946. 3,792,192 ewes were mated or intended to be mated for lambing during 1946 - 2,519,275 to merino, corriedale or polwarth rams and 1,272,917 to rams of other breeds.

WOOL CLIP 7,268,477 (10,670,461) sheep and lambs were reported to have been shorn, the total clip including crutchings etc. being 63,165,228 (91,291,328) lbs. The average fleece for sheep and lambs combined was 8.26 (8.55) lbs and for sheep only 9.10 (9.67) lbs. The total wool production would include approximately another 10,500,000 (15,416,727) lbs for wool fellmongered and on skins for export, making a total wool production of 73,500,000 (106,708,055) lbs.

CATTLE. All kinds 374,096 (391,323) decrease 17,227. Dairying cows 175,696 (186,690) were classified as follows - in milk 112,003 (108,428) dry 38,098 (53,525) and springing heifers 25,595 (24,737). Other cattle included other dairy heifers 16,862 (17,170), dairy calves 31,648 (34,099), dairy bulls 7,095 (7,149), beef cows and heifers 70,538 (70,169), beef calves 27,568 (32,505), beef bulls 2,091 (1,986) and other beef cattle 42,598 (41,555).

DAIRY PRODUCTION. Provisional figures for the year ended June 1946 are as follows:- Butter 18,700,000 (17,247,094) lbs, cheese 22,500,000 (18,465,687) lbs and Bacon and Ham 11,600,000 (10,077,881) lbs.

HORSES. 115,949 (133,003) of which foals were 2,186 (3,282) draught 78,004 (90,187) and other 35,759 (39,534). The number of horses is very little more than half of the number (200,870) in 1936.

PIGS. 119,986 (160,875) of which there were 2,770 (3,267) boars, 15,574 (18,863) breeding sows, 43,800 (59,977) baconers and porkers 1,821 (2,206) backfatters, 13,440 (18,214) stores and 42,581 (58,348) weaners, suckers and slips.

GOYDER'S LINE OF RAINFALL AND LIVESTOCK. Outside Goyder's Line there were 1,636,489 (1,995,892) sheep 115,036 (124,018) cattle and 31,039 (35,794) horses, while inside there were 5,150,049 (6,478,047) sheep 259,060 (267,305) cattle and 84,910 (97,209) horses.

SLAUGHTERINGS, 1945. (1944) were as follows:- Sheep 1,303,608 (1,575,321), Lambs 686,656 (1,489,969), Cattle 147,539 (174,850) Pigs 206,298 (237,765). Prior to the war, the annual slaughterings were approximately:- Sheep 900,000, Lambs 800,000, Cattle 160,000 and Pigs 155,000. For the first 6 months of 1946 (1945) the slaughterings have been - Sheep 370,000 (880,000), Lambs 230,000 (300,000) cattle 68,000 (76,000) and Pigs 78,000 (114,000).

LIVESTOCK AS AT MARCH 31ST 1946 IN COMPARISON WITH MARCH 31ST 1945.

DIVISION	SHEEP		CATTLE		HORSES	PIGS
	1946 No.	1945 No.	1946 No.	1945 No.	1946 No.	1946 No.
Central	1,532,522	1,870,578	123,487	128,126	35,459	53,645
Lower North	1,019,012	1,193,110	28,116	29,847	18,784	31,113
Upper North	545,158	550,404	13,674	12,356	8,236	5,575
South Eastern	1,514,271	1,817,003	80,500	84,058	9,205	5,128
Western	1,176,312	1,725,431	14,825	17,843	19,812	11,212
Murray Mallee	444,869	616,577	20,713	21,554	15,072	13,303
Total counties	6,232,144	7,773,103	281,315	293,784	106,568	119,976
Outside counties	554,394	700,836	92,781	97,539	9,381	10
Total State	6,786,538	8,473,939	374,096	391,323	115,949	119,986
Decrease	1,687,401	1,885,730	17,227	23,674	17,054	40,889

WOOL PRODUCTION

Division	WOOL CLIP			AVERAGE WEIGHT FLEECE		
	1945-46	1944-45	Decrease	1945-46	1944-45	Increase
	Lb.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs	Lbs	Lbs.
Central	13,683,279	19,549,670	5,866,391	7.83	8.22	-0.39
Lower North	9,900,785	14,674,503	4,773,718	9.28	8.94	0.34
Upper North	4,856,633	8,204,926	3,348,293	9.61	9.67	-0.06
South Eastern	13,069,778	16,092,332	3,022,554	7.26	7.92	-0.66
Western	11,444,416	17,113,814	5,669,398	7.85	8.18	-0.33
Murray Mallee	3,852,931	6,663,004	2,810,073	7.98	7.98	0.00
Total counties	56,807,822	82,298,249	25,490,427	8.04	8.37	-0.33
Outside "	6,357,406	8,993,079	2,635,673	10.95	10.68	0.27
Total State	63,165,228	91,291,328	28,126,100	8.26	8.55	-0.29

Grand Total Wool Production (Clip, Fellmongered and on Skins exported) subject to slight revision, 1945-46 73,500,000 lbs. 1944-45 106,708,055 lbs.

Minus sign denotes decrease.

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE
15th July, 1946.
August

A. W. BOWDEN,
GOVERNMENT STATIST